

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Assessment
Environmental Planning Division

Log #WP035E4

LAC 33:IX.2331, 2381, 2383, 2385, 2769, and 2801-2809

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B), and under authority of R.S. 30:2011, the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality declares that an emergency action is necessary as a result of Act 399 of the 1999 Legislative Session, which required all privately-owned sewage treatment facilities, regulated by the Public Service Commission, to obtain financial security prior to receiving discharge authorization. This Act applies to any issuance, renewal, modification, or transfer of such permits after July 1, 1999, and mandates that the Department establish by rule the acceptable forms of financial security and the amount of financial security required for the various types and sizes of facilities. Therefore, after July 1, 1999, and until the necessary rule is in effect, the Department would be required to withhold all new discharge permits, renewal of existing, modification of existing, and transfers of existing discharge permits to all privately-owned, for-profit community sewage treatment facilities.

This is a renewal of Emergency Rule WP035E3, which was effective June 26, 2000, and published in the *Louisiana Register* on July 20, 2000. The text remains the same. Rulemaking procedures have begun to promulgate this regulation. Proposed rule WP035 was published in the *Louisiana Register* on September 20, 2000. The earliest date it can become a final rule is December 20, 2000.

The delays inherent in the normal rulemaking process would imperil public health, safety, and welfare by precluding the legal operation of some sewage treatment facilities subject to Act 399. The legal operation of those sewage treatment facilities is essential for the proper treatment of sewage, necessary to reduce disease-causing microorganisms and pollutants that are harmful to fish and other aquatic life. The cessation of operation of such a treatment facility, as would be required by law, would necessitate either bypassing the treatment facility (resulting in the discharge of untreated sewage) or blocking all flow of sewage through the collection system (rendering uninhabitable every building served by that system). The Department cannot ensure protection of public health, welfare, and the environment without the issuance of discharge permits with proper effluent limitations and monitoring requirements.

The immediate impact of this rule is to give effect to the terms and conditions of Act 399, thus allowing the Department to continue regulating treated sanitary discharges from private treatment facilities which serve large segments of Louisiana's population.

This emergency rule is effective October 25, 2000, and shall remain in effect for a maximum of 120 days or until a final rule is promulgated, whichever comes first. For more information concerning WP035E4, you may contact the Regulation Development Section at (225)

765-0399.

Adopted this 9th day of October, 2000.

J. Dale Givens
Secretary

Title 33
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Part IX. Water Quality Regulations

Chapter 23. The Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) Program

Subchapter B. Permit Application and Special LPDES Program Requirements

' 2331. Application for a Permit

* * *

[See Prior Text in A - O.Editorial Note]

P. Additional Requirements for Privately-Owned Sewage Treatment Facilities Regulated by the Public Service Commission. Privately-owned sewage treatment facilities regulated by the Public Service Commission must also comply with the financial security requirements in LAC 33:IX.Chapter 23.Subchapter W. Following receipt of the permit application the administrative authority shall calculate and subsequently notify the applicant of the waste discharge capacity per day for the facility. The applicant will use this figure to determine the amount of the financial security required by LAC 33:IX.Chapter 23.Subchapter W. The applicant shall subsequently obtain and supply the department with the financial security document in accordance with LAC 33:IX.Chapter 23.Subchapter W. No permit shall be issued after July 1, 1999, without the required financial security, unless a waiver or exemption has been granted under R.S. 30:2075.2(A)(6).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in particular Sections 2074(B)(3) and (4) and 2075.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Resources, LR 21:945 (September 1995), amended LR 23:723 (June 1997), amended by the Office of the Secretary, LR 25:661 (April 1999), amended by the Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 26:*.

Subchapter D. Transfer, Modification, Revocation and Reissuance, and Termination

' 2381. Transfer of Permits

* * *

[See Prior Text in A - B.1]

2. the notice includes a written agreement between the existing and new permittees containing a specific date for transfer of permit responsibility, coverage, and liability between them; and

3. the state administrative authority does not notify the existing permittee and the proposed new permittee of his or her intent to modify or revoke and reissue the permit. A

modification under this Subsection may also be a minor modification under LAC 33:IX.2385. If this notice is not received, the transfer is effective on the date specified in the agreement mentioned in LAC 33:IX.2381.B.2.; and

4. additional requirements are met for privately-owned sewage treatment facilities regulated by the Public Service Commission when transferred after July 1, 1999. The new permittee shall comply with the financial security requirements in LAC 33:IX, Chapter 23, Subchapter W, unless a waiver or exemption has been granted under R.S. 30:2075.2(A)(6).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in particular Sections 2074(B)(3) and (4) and 2075.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Resources, LR 21:945 (September 1995), amended by the Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 26:**.

' 2383. Modification or Revocation and Reissuance of Permits

* * *

[See Prior Text in A - B.2]

C. Upon modification or revocation and reissuance of a permit for a privately-owned sewage treatment facility regulated by the Public Service Commission, the permittee shall comply with the financial security requirements in LAC 33:IX, Chapter 23, Subchapter W, unless a waiver or exemption has been granted under R.S. 30:2075.2(A)(6).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in particular Sections 2074(B)(3) and (4) and 2075.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Resources, LR 21:945 (September 1995), amended LR 23:724 (June 1997), LR 23:1524 (November 1997), amended by the Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 26:**.

' 2385. Minor Modifications of Permits

A. Upon the consent of the permittee, the state administrative authority may modify a permit to make the corrections or allowances for changes in the permitted activity listed in this Section, without following the procedures of LAC 33:IX, Chapter 23, Subchapters E G. Any permit modification not processed as a minor modification under this Section must be made for cause and with LAC 33:IX, Chapter 23, Subchapters E G draft permit and public notice as required in LAC 33:IX.2383. Minor modifications may only:

1. correct typographical errors;
2. require more frequent monitoring or reporting by the permittee;
3. change an interim compliance date in a schedule of compliance, provided

the new date is not more than 120 days after the date specified in the existing permit and does not interfere with attainment of the final compliance date requirement; or

4. allow for a change in ownership or operational control of a facility where the state administrative authority determines that no other change in the permit is necessary, provided that a written agreement containing a specific date for transfer of permit responsibility, coverage, and liability between the current and new permittees has been submitted to the state administrative authority. The new permittee of a privately-owned sewage treatment facility regulated by the Public Service Commission must additionally comply with the financial security requirements in LAC 33:IX.Chapter 23.Subchapter W, unless a waiver or exemption has been granted under R.S. 30:2075.2(A)(6).

* * *

[See Prior Text in A. 5 - 7]

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in particular Sections 2074(B)(3) and (4) and 2075.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Resources, LR 21:945 (September 1995), amended by the Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 26:***.

Subchapter V. Additional Requirements Applicable to the LPDES Program

' 2769. Additional Requirements for Permit Renewal and Termination

A. The following are causes, in addition to those found in LAC 33:IX.2387, for terminating a permit during its term or for denying a permit renewal:

* * *

[See Prior Text in A.1]

2. due consideration of the facility's history of violations and compliance;
and/or
3. change of ownership or operational control (see LAC 33:IX.2381); and/or
4. failure to provide or maintain financial security in accordance with LAC 33:IX. Chapter 23.Subchapter W.

* * *

[See Prior Text in B - D]

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in particular Sections 2074(B)(3) and (4) and 2075.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Resources, LR 21:945 (September 1995), amended LR 23:726 (June 1997), amended by the Office of the Secretary, LR 25:662 (April 1999), amended by the Office of Environmental

Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 26:**.

Subchapter W. Financial Security

' 2801. Applicability

A. This Subsection shall be applicable to the following actions, for privately-owned sewage treatment facilities regulated by the Public Service Commission, when taken after July 1, 1999:

1. issuance of a new discharge permit;
2. renewal of an existing discharge permit;
3. modification of an existing discharge permit; and
4. transfer of an existing discharge permit to a different permittee.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in particular Sections 2074(B)(3) and (4) and 2075.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 26:**.

' 2803. Acceptable Form of Financial Security

A. Financial security required by R.S. 30:2075.2 may be established by any one or a combination of the following mechanisms:

1. Surety Bond. The requirements of this Section may be satisfied by obtaining a surety bond that conforms to the following requirements:

a. the bond must be submitted to the department at the following address: Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Management and Finance, Financial Services, Box 82231, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2231;

b. the bond must be executed by the permittee and a corporate surety licensed to do business in Louisiana. The surety must, at a minimum, be among those listed as acceptable sureties on federal bonds in Circular 570 of the U.S. Department of the Treasury and be approved by the administrative authority;

c. under the terms of the bond, the surety will become liable on the bond obligation when the permit holder fails to perform as guaranteed by the bond;

d. under the terms of the bond, the surety may cancel the bond by sending notice of cancellation by certified mail to the permit holder and to the administrative

authority at the address indicated in Subsection A.1.a of this Section. Cancellation may not occur, however, before 120 days have elapsed, beginning on the date that both the permit holder and the administrative authority receive the notice of cancellation, as evidenced by the return receipts; and

e. the wording of the surety bond must be identical to the following, except that material in brackets is to be replaced with the relevant information and the brackets deleted:

PERFORMANCE BOND

Date bond was executed: _____

Effective date: _____

Principal: [legal name and business address of permit holder or applicant]

Type of organization: [insert "individual," "joint venture," "partnership," or "corporation"]

State of incorporation: _____

Surety: [name(s) and business address(es)]

[Site identification number, site name, facility name, facility permit number, facility address, amount for each facility guaranteed by this bond]

Total penal sum of bond: \$ _____

Surety's bond number: _____

Know All Persons By These Presents That we, the Principal and Surety hereto, are firmly bound to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality in the above penal sum for the payment of which we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, jointly and severally, provided that, where Sureties are corporations acting as cosureties, we, the Sureties, bind ourselves in such sum "jointly and severally" only for the purpose of allowing a joint action or actions against any or all of us and, for all other purposes, each Surety binds itself, jointly and severally with the Principal, for the payment of such sum only as is set forth opposite the name of such Surety, but if no limit of liability is indicated, the limit of liability shall be the full amount of the penal sum.

WHEREAS, said Principal is required, under the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act, La. R.S. 30:2001, et seq., to have a permit in order to discharge wastewater from the facility identified above; and

WHEREAS, the Principal is required by law to provide financial assurance for the conditions specified in LAC 33:IX.Chapter 23.Subchapter W, as a condition of the permit; and

THEREFORE, the conditions of this obligation are such that if the Principal shall faithfully perform, in a timely manner, the requirements of LAC 33:IX applicable to the facility for which this bond guarantees the requirements of LAC 33:IX, in accordance with the other requirements of the permit as such permit may be amended and pursuant to all applicable laws, statutes, rules, and

regulations, as such laws, statutes, rules, and regulations may be amended;

OR, if the Principal shall provide other financial assurance as specified in LAC 33:IX.Chapter 23.Subchapter W and obtain written approval of the administrative authority of such assurance within 90 days after the date of notice of cancellation of this bond is received by both the Principal and the administrative authority, then this obligation shall be null and void; otherwise, it is to remain in full force and effect.

The Surety shall become liable on this bond obligation only when the Principal has failed to fulfill the conditions described hereinabove.

Upon notification by the administrative authority that the Principal has been found in violation of the requirements of LAC 33:IX or of its permit, for the facility for which this bond guarantees performances of the requirements of LAC 33:IX.Chapter 23.Subchapter W, the Surety shall either perform the requirements of LAC 33:IX.Chapter 23.Subchapter W, or place the closure amount guaranteed for the facility into the standby trust fund as directed by the administrative authority.

The Surety hereby waives notification of amendments to permit, applicable laws, statutes, rules, and regulations and agrees that no such amendment shall in any way alleviate its obligation on this bond.

The liability of the Surety(ies) shall not be discharged by any payment or succession of payments hereunder, unless and until such payment or payments shall amount in the aggregate to the penal sum of the bond, but in no event shall the obligation of the Surety hereunder exceed the amount of the penal sum.

The Surety may cancel the bond by sending notice of cancellation by certified mail to the Principal and to the administrative authority. Cancellation shall not occur before 120 days have lapsed, beginning on the date that both the Principal and the administrative authority received the notice of cancellation as evidenced by the return receipts.

The Principal may terminate this bond by sending written notice to the Surety and to the administrative authority, provided, however, that no such notice shall become effective until the Surety receives written authorization for termination of the bond by the administrative authority.

The Principal and Surety hereby agree that no portion of the penal sum may be expended without prior written approval of the administrative authority.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Principal and the Surety have executed this PERFORMANCE BOND on the date set forth above.

Those persons whose signatures appear below hereby certify that they are authorized to execute this surety bond on behalf of the Principal and Surety, that each Surety hereto is authorized to do

business in the state of Louisiana, and that the wording of this surety bond is identical to the wording specified in LAC 33:IX.2803.A.1, effective on the date this bond was executed.

PRINCIPAL

[Signature(s)]

[Name(s)]

[Title(s)]

CORPORATE SURETY

[Name and address]

State of incorporation: _____

Liability limit: \$ _____

[Signature(s)]

[Name(s) and title(s)]

[For every cosurety, provide signature(s) and other information in the same manner as for Surety above.]

Bond premium: \$ _____

2. Letter of Credit. The requirements of this Section may be satisfied by obtaining a Letter of Credit that conforms to the following requirements:

a. the letter of credit must be submitted to the department at the following address: Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Management and Finance, Financial Services, Box 82231, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2231;

b. the issuing institution must be an entity that has the authority to issue letters of credit and whose letter of credit operations are regulated and examined by a federal or state agency;

c. the letter of credit must be irrevocable and issued for a period of at least one year, unless at least 120 days before the current expiration date, the issuing institution notifies both the permit holder and the administrative authority at the address indicated in

Subsection A.2.a of this Section by certified mail of a decision not to extend the expiration date. Under the terms of the letter of credit, the 120 days will begin on the date when both the permit holder and the administrative authority receive the notice, as evidenced by the return receipts; and

d. the wording of the letter of credit shall be identical to the wording that follows, except that the instructions in brackets are to be replaced with the relevant information and the brackets deleted:

IRREVOCABLE LETTER OF CREDIT

Secretary

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

Financial Services

Post Office Box 82231

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70884-2231

Dear Sir:

We hereby establish our Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit No. _____ in favor of the Department of Environmental Quality of the state of Louisiana at the request and for the account of [permit holder's or applicant's name and address] for the conditions specified in LAC 33:IX.Chapter 23.Subchapter W for its [list site identification number, site name, facility name, facility permit number] at [location], Louisiana, for any sum or sums up to the aggregate amount of U.S. dollars \$ _____ upon presentation of:

(1). A sight draft, bearing reference to the Letter of Credit No. _____ drawn by the administrative authority, together with;

(2). A statement, signed by the administrative authority, declaring that the amount of the draft is payable pursuant to the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act, R.S. 30:2001, et seq.

The Letter of Credit is effective as of [date] and will expire on [date], but such expiration date will be automatically extended for a period of at least one year on the above expiration date [date] and on each successive expiration date thereafter, unless, at least 120 days before the then-current expiration date, we notify both the administrative authority and [name of permit holder or applicant] by certified mail that we have decided not to extend this Letter of Credit beyond the then-current expiration date. In the event that we give such notification, any unused portion of this Letter of Credit shall be available upon presentation of your sight draft for 120 days after the date of receipt by both the Department of Environmental Quality and [name of permit holder or applicant] as shown on the signed return receipts.

Whenever this Letter of Credit is drawn under and in compliance with the terms of this credit, we shall duly honor such draft upon presentation to us, and we shall deposit the amount of the draft in accordance with the administrative authority's instructions.

Except to the extent otherwise expressly agreed to, the Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Letters of Credit (1983), International Chamber of Commerce Publication No. 400, shall apply to this Letter of Credit.

We certify that the wording of this Letter of Credit is identical to the wording specified in LAC 33:IX.2803.A.2, effective on the date shown immediately below.

[Signature(s) and title(s) of
official(s) of issuing

institution(s)]

[date]

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in particular Sections 2074(B)(3) and (4) and 2075.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 26:**.

' 2805. Amount of Required Financial Security

A. The amount of the financial security must be equal to or greater than \$1 per gallon of wastewater discharge per day from the facility, as determined by the administrative authority, up to a maximum of \$25,000.

B. The secretary may, in his discretion, allow a single financial security instrument to satisfy the requirements of this Subchapter for up to four permits held by the same permittee, if the amount of financial security provided by that instrument is large enough to satisfy the requirements of Subsection A of this Section for the facility with the greatest amount of wastewater discharge per day.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in particular Sections 2074(B)(3) and (4) and 2075.2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 26:**.

' 2807. Conditions for Forfeiture

A. The secretary or his designee may enter an order requiring forfeiture of all or part of the financial security, if he determines that:

1. the continued operation or lack of operation and maintenance of the facility covered by this Subsection represents a threat to public health, welfare, or the environment because the permittee is unable or unwilling to adequately operate and maintain the facility or the facility has been actually or effectively abandoned by the permittee. Evidence justifying such determination includes, but is not limited to:

a. the discharge of pollutants exceeding limitations imposed by

applicable permits;

- b. failure to utilize or maintain adequate disinfection facilities;
- c. failure to correct overflows or backups from the collection system;
- d. a declaration of a public health emergency by the state health

officer; and

e. a determination by the Public Service Commission that the permittee is financially unable to properly operate or maintain the system;

2. reasonable and practical efforts under the circumstances have been made to obtain corrective actions from the permittee; and

3. it does not appear that corrective actions can or will be taken within an appropriate time as determined by the secretary.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in particular Sections 2074(B)(3) and (4) and 2075.2 and 3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 26:**.

' 2809. Use of Proceeds

A. The proceeds of any forfeiture shall be used by the secretary, or by any receiver appointed by a court under R.S. 30:2075.3, to address or correct the deficiencies at the facility or to maintain and operate the system, as deemed necessary by the secretary under LAC 33:IX.2807.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in particular Sections 2074(B)(3) and (4) and 2075.2 and 3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 26:**.